

Factors influencing NTEP management in the selected districts of Karnataka

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Received: 09.04.2012; Revised: 05.07.2012; Accepted: 05.09.2012

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was conducted during the year 2005-06 in the villages of three districts of Karnataka, India with the objective to analyse the factors influencing the families dependent on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). The families involved in NTFP activities were purposively selected by using the multistage random sampling procedure. Totally 475 households were selected for the study. Frequency and percentages were used to tabulate the data and multivariate factor analysis technique was employed to analyse the data as per the objectives of the study. Around 12-15 different types of NTFPs were collected from the forests of the study areas. Maximum percentage of women collected the muttal leaves (*Butea monosperma*) for making leaf plates followed by collection of fuel wood, fodder grass and jamun fruits. The multiple linear regression analyses showed that the number of female respondents involved in NTFP activities in a family, agricultural income and number of NTFPs collected had positive influence and the respondent's age had negative influence on dependence on NTFP activities. The factorial analysis notified that out of the 15 variables, five *i.e.*, NTFP income, total number of days of NTFPs collection, average distance traveled per day for collection of NTFPs, total number of NTFPs collected and total number of agricultural labour days contributed for more than 84 per cent of total variation in NTFP management.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Non-timber forest products, Women, Factorial analysis, Management

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Hasalkar, Suma, Varghese, M.A. and Ashatatha, K.V. (2012). Factors influencing NTEP management in the selected districts of Karnataka. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 7 (2): 242-246.

The dependence on plants by the human population is as old as the existence of human race. In the beginning it was only for food and fuel, but with the advancement of civilization, the man started using the naturally grown forests for his needs. Any product, which is available from the forests and do not have the timber value can be said as the non-timber forest product (NTFP). The non-timber forest products include the products from both the plant and animal origin. It encompasses all biological materials other than timber, which are extracted from natural forests for human use. These include foods, medicines, ornamental plants, wildlife, fuel wood and raw materials, notably rattan, bamboo, smallwood and fibres (De Beer and Mc Dermott, 1989).

Involvement of women in management of non-timber forest products is very common and is proved through various studies conducted by Prasad (1993), Dandavatimath (1997), and Giri *et al.* (2001). Most of the times, it is the woman who gathers the forest products, processes them and either sells

them to support the family economically or uses them for family consumption. According to Falconer (1989), the available data indicate that women all over the world form majority of the labour force in forest based small scale enterprises, particularly those that are rural and household based. In the West African humid forest region, women dominate the collection, trade and processing of the majority of non-timber forest products.

The present study aims at identifying the factors influencing the management of NTFPs in the selected districts of Karnataka with the following objectives to study the types of NTFPs collected by women in the study area and to study the important factors influencing the dependence on NTFPs in the study area.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The Kanara Forest Circle of Karnataka state was